

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MEXICO 01809 011835Z
ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 VO-03 ISO-00 /006 W
-----118737 020823Z /14
R 011813Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7951

UNCLAS MEXICO 01809

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CDES, MX (MCKIE, ROBERT A.)
SUBJECT: ROBERT A. MCKIE

REF: DEPARTMENT'S OM DATED 1/10/78

H PASS THE HONORABLE THOMAS LUDLOW ASHLEY, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515 FROM VERNON D.
MCANINCH, CONSUL GENERAL.

ACTING ASSISTANT
SECRETARY ROBERT G. BECKEL HAS ASKED ME
TO REPLY FURTHER TO YOUR LETTER OF DECEMBER 19 ON BEHALF
OF MRS. BETHEL MCKIE, 3471 146TH, TOLEDO, OHIO. MRS.
MCKIE'S HUSBAND, MR. ROBERT A. MCKIE, DIED SUDDENLY AT
ACAPULCO ON DECEMBER 1 OF LAST YEAR. IN HER LETTER TO
YOU, MRS. MCKIE INDICATED THAT SHE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO
COMMUNICATE WITH THE EMBASSY, AND THAT SHE FELT THAT SHE
HAD BEEN OVERCHARGED BY THE MORTUARY WHICH ARRANGED FOR
THE RETURN OF THE REMAINS TO THE UNITED STATES.

AS MR. BECKEL ADVISED YOU IN HIS LETTER OF JANUARY 16,
THE EMBASSY DOES HAVE A DUTY OFFICER WHO IS ON CALL AT
ALL TIMES OUTSIDE OF OFFICE HOURS TO DEAL WITH EMERGENCY
SITUATIONS. I HAVE SPOKEN WITH THE OFFICER WHO WAS ON
DUTY DURING THE WEEK MR. MCKIE DIED. HE SAID THAT HE HAD
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MEXICO 01809 011835Z

RECEIVED NUMEROUS CALLS DURING HIS WEEK OF DUTY, BUT NO
INDICATION OF ANY CALL FROM MRS. MCKIE. THE EMBASSY TELE-
PHONE OPERATORS' RECORD OF CALLS RECEIVED BEARS THIS OUT.

MOREOVER, THE DUTY OFFICER DID IN FACT RECEIVE AN AFTER
HOURS CALL FROM THE MORTUARY WHICH HANDLED MR. MCKIE'S
CASE, AND ON THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 2 WENT TO THE EMBASSY

AT THE MORTUARY'S REQUEST FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPLETING THE CONSULAR MORTUARY CERTIFICATE NECESSARY TO TRANSPORT MR. MCKIE'S REMAINS BACK TO THE UNITED STATES.

THESE FACTS LEAD ME TO BELIEVE THAT MRS. MCKIE WAS NOT CALLING THE EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY. WHILE A CONSULAR AGENT WILL BE NAMED AT ACAPULCO IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT AT PRESENT HAVE PERMANENT REPRESENTATION IN THAT CITY. THE HOTEL PARAISO MARRIOTT HAS VERY KINDLY LENT THE EMBASSY AN OFFICE WHICH IS USED ONE OR TWO DAYS A MONTH BY A VICE CONSUL SENT FROM THE EMBASSY TO PERFORM ROUTINE CONSULAR SERVICES. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MRS. MCKIE MAY HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF THIS ARRANGEMENT AND ATTEMPTED TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE VICE CONSUL AT THE HOTEL AFTER HE HAD CONCLUDED HIS BUSINESS AND DEPARTED. I CANNOT THINK OF ANY OTHER REASON WHY MRS. MCKIE MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE EMBASSY.

THE CAPILLA DEL CARMEN, THE FUNERAL HOME IN ACAPULCO, IS NOT ONE OF THOSE WHOSE NAMES WE PROVIDE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO HAVE LOST A RELATIVE OR FRIEND THERE. THE FUNERAL HOME'S CHARGES IN THIS CASE ARE IN FACT HIGH, BUT NOT UNHEARD OF. THEY INCLUDE A NUMBER OF GOODS AND SERVICES WHICH WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED IN THE UNITED STATES, SUCH AS ROUND TRIP FROM ACAPULCO TO MEXICO CITY TO OBTAIN THE CONSULAR MORTUARY CERTIFICATE. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOME

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MEXICO 01809 011835Z

ADVISED THE EMBASSY THAT ITS SERVICES HAD BEEN CONTRACTED AND PAID FOR BY MR. HIP BEYER, ASSISTANT MANAGER OF THE COLIN TRAVEL AGENCY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT HE CONSIDERED THE FUNERAL HOME'S CHARGES REASONABLE AND THAT HE WAS UNWILLING TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF THE REFUND OF ANY CURT OF THE MOUNT PAID.

WHILE THE EMBASSY IS ALWAYS WILLING TO USE ITS GOOD OFFICES TO HELP TWO PARTIES TO A DISPUTE ARRIVE AT A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT WHEN THERE IS A DISPOSITION TO NEGOTIATE ON BOTH SIDES, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT WE HAVE NO POWER TO COMPEL A SETTLEMENT. NOR HAVE WE ANY CONTROL OVER PRICES ESTABLISHED BY PRIVATE BUSINESS ENTERPRISES IN MEXICO.

I SINCERELY REGRET THAT THESE ADDITIONAL DIFFICULTIES AROSE IN WHAT WAS ALREADY SUCH A SAD AND TRYING SITUATION FOR MRS. MCKIE, AND WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CONVEYING TO HER MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY IN HER BEREAVEMENT. LUCEY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MEXICO01809
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780049-0960
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802107/aaaadmfu.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e16b08ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3443794
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROBERT A. MCKIE
TAGS: CDES, MX, (MCKIE, ROBERT A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e16b08ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014